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Subject: Monthly Newsletter JANUARY 2025
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To: Sharon Thompson president@northshorebridgeclub.com.au

MP



Monthly Newsletter

January 2025 | Editor: Russell Spear

Dear Sharon,

To see all our latest news and events, please visit our website which is updated daily. [Click here to visit the website.](#)

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CLUB NOTICES

JANUARY 2025

Welcome to 2025 and what an exciting year it will be. We have lots of Bridge Lessons and fun stuff planned for the year ahead. We look forward to working with you in the coming year

Morning Sessions on Real Bridge Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 am starting Tuesday 7th January

At the end of December Kings and Queens Bridge Club in the Eastern Suburbs will close their doors after many years. Many of Kings and Queens members already play with us at NSBC having joined us during Covid. This is a great opportunity to put back back a couple of morning sessions to accommodate and attract Kings and Queens players to join us on Real Bridge.

Your Old Phone Could Save a Life

North Shore Bridge Club in partnership with Bendigo Bank and Rotary, is collecting unused phones to support domestic violence victims. The phones would be professionally wiped to

remove all data and then re-gifted, providing a safe means of communication for those in need. This initiative makes a real difference, and we encourage you to donate any unused phones. Drop them off at either The Willis or East Lindfield, and we will ensure they are donated to this important cause. Thank you for your generosity!

New to North Shore Bridge Club

We are trying something new for 2025. Instead of Restricted sections alone in our Congress's we are making these Intermediate hoping to attract more entries to make them better for you. All players under 750 Master Points will be eligible to play and depending on support we hope there will be Intermediate prizes as well as Restricted but this will be guided by entries.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Update - January 2025

As we wrap up 2024, I want to take a moment to celebrate everything we've achieved this year. A huge thank you to our amazing Staff, Committee and Volunteers for their tireless work—your dedication keeps our club thriving and growing.

Congratulations to our Club Champions of 2024, this was a very exciting battle right to the last hand. Congratulations to all - more details in the results.

Looking ahead to 2025, I've set myself a New Year's resolution: *to be a better bridge player!* With the fantastic lessons and workshops we have planned, I reckon I've got no excuses. If your bridge game has hit a bit of a plateau, why not join me in this resolution? Let's all level up together!

The Club is also taking on some ambitious resolutions of its own. We're aiming to:

- Streamline our processes to run as smoothly enabling us to cope with cost increases over 2025.
- Secure sponsorships for at least half of our Congresses.
- Keep the good vibes going with more of our fabulous social events.
- Give our newer players the opportunity to improve and gain confidence with a mentor program to encourage self-improvement and skill development among members.
- Provide diverse learning opportunities, such as workshops, seminars, and practice sessions, to enhance members' bridge skills and overall experience
- Continue to look for ways to improve our bridge and member services offerings.

Here's to another year of growth, great games, and an even stronger bridge community. May 2025 bring you good health, high scores, great partnerships, and plenty of fun at the table.

See you at the Club!

Kind regards
Shaz

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Recently a Club member asked about competitive Travel Insurance. The good news is that through our Sponsors, the Insurers TBIB and just being a member of the ABF gives members a travel insurance option for those right through to 90 years of age.

To find the site [click here](#) or on the button below.

On a recent quote obtained for an ABF Member travelling domestically on a 4 day interstate trip, the quote obtained was 19.4% less than a quote from the same Insurers for a non-member. However, remember, it's always worthwhile to test the rest of the market to ensure you get the best insurance option for you individually.

Happy Travels
Jo Ampherlaw

[Click Here for the ABF Travel Insurance](#)

MASTERS OF BRIDGE

An interview with leading Bridge Players

	Liam Milne
How long have you been Playing Bridge	About 20 years. I learnt when I was 15 at High School in New Zealand. I was very lucky that a top bridge player volunteered his time to teach kids in school during their lunch break. I hope to, one day, do something similar!
How Many Master Points do you have?	About 4500 (3900 gold, 500 red, 100 green).
While you have a lot of Master Points you have more Red and Gold Points than Green Points – why is that?	Green points are a lot harder to earn! You can play a session of bridge, do well and only get 0.6 points! If you do well at a national event, you might get 40+ points for a few days of bridge. I play a lot more national events than I do club bridge or congresses.
What tournaments have you had the most success in last 5 years. Which events have you represented Club/State/Australia	My best bridge result in the recent past, was when our team (me, James Coutts and NZ friends Michael Whibley, Matt Brown) won the silver medal in the World Transnational Open Teams. My most successful event is the G.C. Open Teams which I have won four times since 2012. The most important event to win is the Open Playoff to determine the Australian team. We have won twice, 2015, 2023 and selected as the third pair another two times.
What Conventions do you use when Bidding over and above the 5 Standard Conventions	Of the conventions I play with James I recommend: • “Multi-Landy” defense to 1NT • Drury 2C by passed hand over 1H/1S • ‘Scrambling 2NT’ when responding to a takeout double ‘Good Raise 2NT’ when partner opens or over calls a major and the auction gets competitive, 2NT shows a good raise with at least 4 trumps.
Which do you think are the most effective Bidding Conventions other than the 5 Std Conventions for	Focus on conventions dealing with competitive bidding. Great example is cue raises (bidding the opponent's suit

conventions other than the 5-3-2-1 conventions for: Rookies Restricted Players	Great example is cue raises (showing the opponents suit to show a good raise of partner) which allows you to show good hands and preemptive hands. How Negative Doubles work is another very important area.
Defense is about 50% of the game what tips would give to players to handle this part of the game	Try to visualise what declarer's hand looks like. You have hints from the sequence of bidding, so make guess and update it as you find out more. If you just follow along with the play without thinking about what declarer has, it is easy to make a mistake and give away easy tricks. Try to work out what declarer is trying to do and do the opposite. A classic mistake is when I am working on establishing a suit as declarer, defense returns the suit for me! This is very rarely right.
What Conventions do you use for Defense/How do you approach defense	James and I lead 3rds and 5ths against suit contracts which helps us count the hand. A lot of our approach to defense is based on many discussions with partner and a good understanding of what partner likes to lead, how they usually defend, etc. It is easiest to defend well with a reliable partner.

EXTEND YOUR BRIDGE KNOWLEDGE

EXTENDING ON THE FIVE ESSENTIAL CONVENTIONS - Stayman, Transfers, Strong 2 Clubs, Blackwood and Pre-Empts

Bidding to Small Slam/Grand Slam and achieving those calls is one of the most satisfying feelings in playing Bridge. While Blackwood is an essential convention taught at the learning stage of Bridge, there have been a number of conventions developed to help get to slam - not more slams but to keep you out of bad ones. One such convention is Blackwood RKCB 1430 - this convention allows a partnership to not only identify whether partner has the King of trumps, but sometimes also where the Queen of trumps may lay. Blackwood RKCB 1430 was first publicised by Eddie Kantar. Kantar was a prolific player and writer of Bridge. He won two Open World Championships for Teams and won 15 North American Bridge Championships. He wrote 35 books on Bridge

Once you and partner have decided to head for Slam by bidding 4NT, - use the Blackwood RKCB 1430 - in this convention instead of 4 Aces you will pretend there are actually 5 Keycards and the fifth "Ace" is the King of Trumps.

After partner has bid 4 NT your response will be one of the following

5C	indicates 1 or 4 Keycards
5D	3 or 0 Keycards - hence 1430
5H	2 or 5 Keycards (without the Queen of Trumps)
5S	2 or 5 Keycards (with the Queen of Trumps)

So how does this help you - if Partner bids 5C, saying he has 1 or 4 Keycards then by looking at your hand you can deduce exactly what partner has from your hand and previous bidding. With this bidding you will never get to a small slam missing two keycards nor should you be bidding a small slam requiring a finesse of the King of Trumps - after all Slam Bids requiring a finesse of the King are more likely to fail (less than 50% chance of the finesse succeeding)

You can continue to determine the number of Kings in partners hand by bidding 5NT but you only need to know the number of Kings other than the King of Trumps. Only ask for Kings if you are contemplating Grand Slam

A critical point is:

If there is any doubt which suit is agreed as Trumps, then the last (natural) bid suit is considered the key suit for the purposes of counting keycards

On this particular board the bidding achieved the desired outcome, although if more aggressive; the Declarer having been able to identify where both the King of Trumps and Queen of Trumps were, the bidding should have got to Grand Slam

Bidding:

East P South 1 C

West P North 1 H

East P South 2 C

West P North 4 NT

East P South 5 D (indicating 3 Keycards)

West P North 6 NT (then Pass, Pass)

Note Clubs was the agreed suit (Clubs were bid twice and Hearts only the once, Clubs was the last natural bid suit on which to identify the King as the fifth Keycard. North had the Queen C so North knew there would be no 5 S bid. Those that bid Slam all achieved 13 tricks

North NV	
♠ A K 10	
♥ K Q 8 4 3	
♦ A K	
♣ Q 4 3	

West V	East D V
♠ J 9 5 2	♠ 6 4 3
♥ 6	♥ 10 9 7 5 2
♦ 9 8 7 6 4 2	♦ Q J 10
♣ 10 7	♣ 8 2

South NV		HCPs
♠ Q 8 7		21
♥ A J		1 3
♦ 5 3		15
♣ A K J 9 6 5		

MAJOR RESULTS

The Club Champions for 2024 were decided in the last weeks of 2024. For the Open Section the winners were decided until the conclusion of the final event. As was noted in the Newsletter last month the leaders at that time were Giselle Mundell and Andrew Peake. Giselle and Andrew held on in the final event and have been declared Club Champions Open section in 2024 - Congratulations Giselle and Andrew and thank you to all who participated



The Club Restricted section winners were Terry Dunne and Hanley. The winners led at every stage of 2024 from the very first tournament until the end the end. Congratulations to Terry and Christine and thank you to all who participated in 2024



UPCOMING EVENTS

There are a lot of events to put in your diary over the next couple of months - so you don't forget we have listed all the events over the next 6-8 weeks so you have plenty of time to arrange your diary so you can play - we would love to see as many participants as possible. We are really trying as a Club, to encourage Rookie, Restricted and Intermediate players to join in the fun. So come and play - it's the best fun and in many of these events you can increase your wealth of points and achieve a much higher ranking

Summer Online Teams Congress

Sunday, 05 January & 12 January 2025 @10:00

Real Bridge Sundays | Teams | Online | **Red Masterpoints**

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Mixed Pairs Championship - State Qualifier

Thurs 23 Jan, Thurs , 30th Jan, Thurs 13th Feb, 19:00

NSBC Congress | State Qualifier | Pairs | Online | **Red Masterpoints**

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Australia Day Weekend OPEN Online Swiss Pairs

Sun 26 Jan, 2 sessions starting 10:00

NSBC Congress | Pairs | Online | **Red Masterpoints**

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Australia Day Weekend Intermediate/Restricted/Novice Online Swiss Pairs

Sun 26 Jan, 2 sessions starting 10:00

NSBC Congress | Pairs | Online | **Red Masterpoints**

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Online Swiss Pairs Congress OPEN Online Swiss Pairs

Sun 16 Feb 2 Sessions starting 10:00

NSBC Congress | Pairs | Online | **Red Masterpoints**

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Online Swiss Pairs Congress Intermediate/Restricted/Novice Online Swiss Pairs

Sun 16 Feb 2 Sessions starting 10:00

NSBC Congress | Pairs | Online | **Red Masterpoints**

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Summer Teams Championship

3 week Open Teams Championship 20 Feb, 27 Feb, 06 Mar @ 1900

NSBC Congress | Teams | Online | **Red Masterpoints**

[Click here to enter via MyABF](#)

Stratified Pairs

Sat, 01 Mar, 08 Mar, 15 Mar, 22 Mar, 29 Mar, 2025

NSBC Congress | Pairs | Online & F to F at East Lindfield, Best 3 results count, all categories covered, no specific entry required, just come along | **Red Masterpoints**

LESSONS

While there are a significant number of Lessons planned over the next 12 months, we have notified below some of those presented by one of our more popular presenters Will Jenner-O'Shea, so again you can get them in your diaries.

If you want to improve your bridge playing and frequency of scoring high percentages in hands played then attendance at a Will Jenner-O'Shea Lesson is a must. Will's sessions are interactive and very educational.

If you can't attend Will's Lessons then look to attend other Lessons from any of our other highly effective trainers - it's the only way your bridge will improve

Mastering Good No Trump Games with Will Jenner O'Shea

Fri, 14 Feb 2025 @ 10:00

4th Suit Forcing, Stoppers, Hand Evaluation & Play/Defense Tips for No Trump Success.

Improve Your Competitive Bidding

Fri, 09 May 2025 @10:00

Overcalls and Doubles, How to Respond to Overcalls and Doubles, How Matchpoints scoring works

Defend Better By Knowing What To Do - with Will

Fri 04 May 2025 10:00

Active Defence, Passive Defence, Forcing Defence and How to Use it. Other Defence Options

It's All About Shape - with Will Jenner-O'Shea

Fri 04 Jul,2025 @ 10:00

Showing the Shape of your Hand, Making the most of very Shapely Hands, Staying Out of Trouble.

Dear Director

When we first learnt bridge we received a whole lot of rules to follow and then we finally memorised them, we were told to forget most of them. So no wonder this is the most confusing game known to man. But also one of the most rewarding and challenging games.

You need to remember if you are Opening the bidding partner may change the suit. This is forcing (meaning Opener can not pass). Now you bid your hand showing partner if you are a minimum, mid-range or maximum hand. As responder, you need to show partner how strong you are with your second bid. I will show a hand that came up where some pairs failed to get to game. I have put two hands here that are very similar so you can see you need to bid accordingly.

First hand

Partner East: Opens 1 Heart (meets the rule of 20),

South: Pass

West : Bids 1 Spade (forcing),

North - Passes

East: To show partner your strength - bid 2 Diamonds. South: Pass

West: Partner needs to bid 4 Spades not 3 Spades as this is not forcing - 4 Spades.

Six Spades makes but it is a very friendly hand.

		N undefined	W N E S
14	D	♠ 7653	
		♥ 9	
		♦ K9643	
		♣ A102	
W undefined		E undefined	
		♠ 4	
		♥ QJ10862	
		♦ AQJ10	
		♣ 98	
		S undefined	
		♠ 92	
		♥ K753	
		♦ 75	
		♣ Q7643	
Rewind Previous Next		Options GIB Play	Bridge Base

Second hand

East: Partner opens 1 Heart (it makes the rule of 20)

South: Passes

West: You, bid 1 Spade (forcing).

North with 13 HCP's may pass or Double -

		N	undefined		W	N	E	S
14	D	♠	K843					
		♥	A					
		♦	KJ106					
		♣	Q1032					
W		undefined		E undefined				
		♠	AQJ765		♠	10		
		♥	106		♥	QJ9842		
		♦	98		♦	AQ432		

most didn't Double

East: Being forced to bid again by partner, show your second suit and bid 2 Diamonds.

South: Pass

West: (Partner) bids just 2 Spades (showing 6 spades and a minimum hand)

Pass/Pass/Pass

♣ 985		♣ J
	S undefined	
	♠ 92	
	♥ K753	
	♦ 75	
	♣ AK764	

Ask Gary

John Brodie Asks: "Why do we have to announce 1♣ opening length and 1NT opening strength?"

Good question John, I will give it my best shot. There are a variety of bridge systems being played in Australia beyond the Standard American (commonly known as Standard). In the last five years I have encountered several systems including Standard, 2 over 1, Acol, Precision, Big Club, Polish Club (it's been a while), SCAMP (twice), and EHAA (Every Hand is An Adventure), which I've only seen once. The most notable similarity amongst these systems is the distinct differences in their 1♣ and 1NT opening bids.

Natural systems like Standard, 2 over 1, and Acol open 1♣ with either 2, 3, or 4 clubs, which must be announced (not alerted) for example when playing that a 1♣ opening contains at least 3 clubs then announce it as "3+" or "3 or more." If you have played in the Open, you might notice some players alert the 1♣ opening then announce it as "Strong" or "Unusual." This is because they are using a different system with an artificial 1♣ opening that may not contain any clubs at all and must be alerted.

The range of high card points (HCP) for a 1NT opening bid can vary significantly between systems. Some systems use a weak opening 1NT with 8-11 or 10-14 HCP, while others prefer a stronger 1NT opening with ranges like 14-16, 15-17, or 15-18 HCP. In my system, a double, by me or my partner, over the opponents 1NT opening will have different meanings depending on whether the opener's 1NT is announced as strong or weak.

The Australian Bridge Federation mandates that all players at ABF-affiliated clubs must announce the 1♣ opening length and 1NT opening strength bids. This regulation aims to ensure fairness and prevent misunderstandings by providing clear and immediate information about the meaning of these bids. Since bridge is a game of open strategy (no secrets!), this transparency allows players to focus on making the best possible bids without the need to decode potentially ambiguous signals.

MONTHLY WINNERS

Congratulations to the following players who were the overall Monthly Winners for their session.

East Lindfield Monday 10.00 AM Rookie - Peter Brook / Mark Lakota
East Lindfield Monday 1.00 PM Open - Peter Trebeck / Denzil Seldon

East Lindfield Monday 7.00 PM Supervised - Margriet Shaw-Taylor / Anne Handel
East Lindfield Tuesday 1.30 PM Rookie - David Dalley / Dale Dalley
East Lindfield Wednesday 10.00 AM Open - Stephen Sharp / Janet Crocker
East Lindfield Thursday 10.00 AM Rookie - Philip Raymond / Judi Raymond
East Lindfield Thursday 10.00 AM Supervised - Robyn Chapman / Karen Murphy
East Lindfield Thursday 1.00 PM Open - Roslyn Howes / Tony Howes
East Lindfield Saturday 1.00 PM Open - Beverley Callaway / Maria Remedios
The Willis Monday 1.15 PM Rookie - Mary Irvin / Douglas Irvin
The Willis Tuesday 12.30 PM Open - Graham McMahon / Yu-Shiun Chen
The Willis Wednesday 12.30 PM Open - Lydia Gibbs / Kevin Murray
Online Mon 10.00 am Open - Fran Campbell / Esther Lee
Online Mon 1.30 pm Open - Michael Cartmell / Nick Fahrer
Online Mon 2.00 pm Rookie - Peter Messinesi / Meera Kudva
Online Tue 1.30 pm Open - Peter Robinson / Kevin Davies
Online Tue 2.00 pm Rookie - Rosemary Christie / Anne Maree Gleeson
Online Tue 7.00 pm Restricted - Peter Messinesi / Meera Kudva
Online Wed 1.30 pm Open - Fran Campbell / Esther Lee
Online Wed 2.00 pm Rookie - Margaret Parker / Peter Cassin
Online Wed 7.00 pm Open - Steven Bock / Kevin Davies
Online Thu 1.30 pm Open - Judy Osie / Rena Kaplan
Online Thu 1.30 pm Restricted - Brian Emanuel / Meera Kudva
Online Fri 1.30 pm Open - Regina Feiler / Jack Feiler
Online Sat 1.30 pm Open - Judy Osie / David Osie

MASTERPOINT PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following members on their promotions.

Jan Hinton to Local Master
Catherine Hicks to Local Master
Jen Maneschi to Local Master
Jo Lang to Club Master
Lyn Snailham to Club Master
Anne Horsley to Graduate Master
Joe Camilleri to Bronze Regional Master
Mark Lakota to Local Master
Ariela Honour to Local Master
Melissa Smith to Local Master
Fiona Read to Local Master
Sarah King to Club Master
Greta Greening to Club Master
Helen Gilleran to Graduate Master
Catherine Rothery to Graduate Master

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members this month and we hope to extend that welcome to many more new players in 2025

Catharina Muller - Hornsby
Gaye Bannan - Killara
Steven Barta - Bellevue Hill
Rakesh Bhatt - Artarmon

Stuart Grant - Castlecraig
Maxine Jenkins - Roseville
Sandra Milner - Rose Bay
John Newman - Marrickville
Ben Poon - St Ives
Peter Poon - Dural
Helen Ritchie - Mosman
Lindsey Smith - Ausstinmer
Suzanne Steingold - Millers Point
Yvonne Swinney - East Gosford
Pam Ward - Carlingford
John Weiher - Lindfield



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